

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a hybrid ARQ scheme with incremental data packet combining. In an example embodiment, the hybrid ARQ scheme with incremental data packet combining employs three feedback signaling commands: ACK, NACK, and LOST. Using these three feedback commands, the hybrid ARQ scheme with incremental data packet combining provides both robustness and good performance. The invention is particularly advantageous in communication systems with unreliable communication channels, e.g., a fading radio channel, where forward error correction (FEC) codes are used, some of the code symbols being more important than other code symbols. The benefits of the invention are increased throughput and decreased delay of the packet data communication.

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